

**Findley Elementary School**  
**PTO Meeting Agenda**  
February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
2:00pm

**I. Call to Order**

Viju Viswanathan - Co-President

**II. Approval of Minutes**

January 2016 - approved!

**III. Board Member Reports**

A. Shawn Birdsall – Vice President - Presentation of Thank You's

1. thank you to Corrine Frechette who organized the fantastic feast on Friday, February 5th for the Findley Staff.
2. thank you party parents & volunteers who helped make the classroom's valentine's day parties a success.
3. thank you to Dana Rodman who delivered the collected socks and underwear donated by Findley students and families to the BSD donation drop off site.
4. thank you to the carnival dads - the new A/V system in the cafeteria/auditorium sounds amazing!
5. thank you to Catherine Needham for organizing the wonderful valentinegrams that students sent out this valentine's day.

B. Christopher Temple Morris – Treasurer's Report

1. surplus money for new instruments for music program has been spent. all instruments have been received and only 2 xylophones are on backorder.
2. there is currently \$1800 in funds for 5th grade parties
3. all pass through monies have been updated
4. no additional monies from Findley restaurant nights have been deposited but several more restaurant nights are on the calendar, including: Pastini Pastaria on February 29th and March 1st, Papa's Pizzeria during Spring Break and a final Bethany Public House for the 5th grade sometime during the spring.

**IV. Current Updates and discussions**

- A. VMS or Volunteer Management System, which will serve as Findley's new online volunteer sign up portal will be holding training seminars. Several PTO members will attend training seminars before the system goes live. More details to follow.



B. Science Fair at Findley Elementary: Angie Mitlehner

Presentation boards are still available - come by and get one for your student while there is still ample stock! A chart workshop will be hosted for the 4th and 5th grades during an upcoming lunch period TBA. Science Fair committee is putting out a request for new board members; several current board members will be matriculating out, making room for new members to join for the 2016-2017 school year. A volunteer request for the Science Fair days will also be going out soon. Science Fair Committee will be having a meeting coming up soon, date TBD.

C. Emergency Kits:

Options for backpacks are currently being sought; looking to match the current emergency backpacks, which are red. Any leads would be greatly appreciated. Chris Temple Morris demo'd the crank radio/flashlight that is in all the kits. The crank radio/flashlight will emit 3 hours of radio time and 5 minutes of a cell phone charge with just a single 1 minute crank session. Walking ropes have been ordered and a request for CPR masks for some of the packs has been received and researched.

D. accounting software recommendations are requested by Chris Temple Morris. Currently, the Quicken software used to account for Findley treasury account is not compatible on MAC and suggestions for an alternate system is being sought. Please direct recommendations to Chris Temple Morris.

E. Findley Bingo Night is this Friday, February 19th, from 6:30 to 8pm, the cafeteria. Prizes will include Book Fair gift cards as well as a special blackout bingo card grand prize. Doughnuts, bottled water, and popcorn will be available for sale. As always, volunteers are needed and always welcome. The Book Fair will also be taking place in the Findley Library, starting immediately after school and continuing through the Bingo Night. Findley Bingo Night is an inside event and access to the playground will not be allowed.

## V. Findley Staff Reports

A. Amy Chamberlain - Vice Principal Report

1. LPA testing schedule will be posted. This is a test for Findley's ESL students and will take place during school hours.
2. The sound system update has been completed and is up and running. The new system was utilized for the 2nd grade music performance and most recently, movie night. The new sound system sounds amazing! Now even students in the very back



will be able to clearly hear everything going on up towards the front of the cafeteria. The new sound board is much more user friendly than the previous one plus it allows for wireless hookup for speaker presentations. Additional choir microphones have been ordered as it was determined that they were needed.

3. Video system is also undergoing an update. We are awaiting a consult with a video specialist as we are considering a larger screen and possibly a mounted projector. Estimates are forthcoming and it is thought that this will be covered under the funds raised by the carnival dads as funds still remain after the sound system update.
4. A BSD program called Future Ready is being implemented at Findley. This is a program to help prepare students become familiar with growing technology. New devices should be in school by year's end. A full rollout is expected soon after; Findley teachers and staff will attend ramp up training as this program moves forward in to the new school year. Future Ready committee members are also needed. More information will be coming home in the newsletter.
5. Thank you Corrine Frechette and volunteers for the staff lunch - everything was so delicious!

#### B. Emily Gotfried - Teacher Report

##### Kindergarten:

Kindergarten has been learning how to write about their opinion by stating the topic and sharing reasons to support their ideas. We continue to grow stamina in reading and we love to read the leveled books in our book boxes. We have been creating lists of "word families" (\_an, pan, man, fan...) and learning how they can help us in our reading and writing. We continue to practice composing and decomposing numbers to 10 and enjoying math games with friends.

We have just started to explore our new unit of inquiry into Where We Are in Place and Time. We are observing how homes are different around the world, making connections between culture and homes, and look forward to discovering how resources and location can influence home design.

##### 1st Grade:

First grade is finishing up our PYP unit Where We Are In Place and Time. We have learned how celebrations help us mark the passage of time and that while everyone celebrates holidays,



we do not all celebrate the same ones. Our attitudes and attributes for this unit have been tolerance and appreciation. The children have had a great time learning all about different holidays and have done a lot of research.

Watching first graders unlock the magic of reading is always amazing to witness. They come so far in a single year. Parents can be so proud of their first grade readers.

In math we are in a unit on measurement with non standard measuring tools. The children are enjoying measuring items and using the language of measurement.

2nd Grade:

A BIG thank you to the PTO for the amazing valentine's parties. The kids were thrilled and had a blast. 2nd graders are growing their knowledge as non-fiction readers! They are reading across text, making connections, and learning to take notes and research. In writing, students writing all about their favorite subjects learning to inform the reader! We are working on adding different types of information to our writing like facts, details, and definitions, and examples. Our mathematicians are learning to regroup and decompose (borrowing) when adding and subtracting three-digit numbers. They are also rocking around the clock telling time to the nearest 5 minutes. As inquirers, we are launching into a How the World Works unit through the lens of water. This unit will sparks some great scientific inquiries and inspire some engineering and design.

3rd Grade:

In third grade we are starting our favorite PYP unit, "How the World Works". We do several fun science experiments around force and motion. Experiments involving, friction, wind and magnets. We also learn about how simple machines work and solve everyday problems for us. The students will then think of a problem in their life, then design and make a non-working prototype that solves the problem using force and motion.



We are starting our fraction unit in math and working on reading and responding to non-fiction text and writing in paragraphs about those texts.

#### 4th Grade:

Fourth grade is wrapping up How the World works and will be soon embark on the unit entitled Where we are in Place and Time. Among other things, we will be exploring the challenges and opportunities of migration. Math has us playing with fractions, we are finishing up Opinion writing and we continue to challenge ourselves to become deep thinkers as we read.

#### 5th Grade:

We're currently on module 4 in our Engage NY math program. ... This module focuses on various strategies that can be used when multiplying and dividing fractions. ... This also includes creating as well as solving word problems connected to the skills taught.

Our current PYP unit is under the theme of "Sharing the Planet". ... It focuses on food consumption and production as well as human responsibility in food production. ... As we progress deeper into the unit, we'll be writing argument-based reports. ... From a reading perspective, we'll be looking into articles that have debatable issues

## VI. Questions

